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and '77, appears in the *Geographical Magazine* for April. Lieut. Wyse reports that a canal directly up the valleys of the Jupisa and Jiati is feasible, and recommends this route. He pays a just tribute to the work done by his predecessors, Commanders Selfridge and Lull, of the U. S. Navy. Farther explorations were carried on the past winter by Lieut. Wyse.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.—The *Geographical Magazine* for April contains a colored map, giving the proposed changes in the territorial boundary of European Turkey, as stated in Articles I, III and VI of the preliminary treaty of peace. Mr. J. Boyer has lately ascended Mount Ararat, which is 17,000 feet high. Large beds of snow extend down to a height of 11,000 or 12,000 feet. The last part of the ascent was upon a slope of rotten rock, which crumbled under foot, making the ascent very fatiguing. He found not a fragment of Noah's Ark.

MICROSCOPY.[1]

A NOVEL STAND.—A microscope stand, recently made for Dr. Blackham, of Dunkirk, by Mr. Tolles, of Boston, combines with the usual excellencies of that maker's work, some peculiarities designed to fit it especially for optical experiments. The stand is made on the Jackson model, and the slide behind the body, by which focal adjustment is made, is furnished with a scale and vernier by which the working focal distance of the objectives used can be measured with facility. Dr. Blackham claims this device as his own, though the claim has brought to light representations that the device has been previously used or suggested by Mr. Geo. E. Fell, of Buffalo. The most conspicuous peculiarity of the instrument is the method of mounting the mirror and sub-stage. Back of the stage and between it and the curved arm that supports the body, is a brass disc three-tenths of an inch thick and nearly five inches in diameter. This disc is arranged vertically between the body and the curved arm, with its center in the horizontal plane of the object. On the face of this plate, and near to its circumference, is a deep circular groove in which slides a radial arm which bears the sub-stage, mirror, etc. This gives, with great smoothness, the rotation of all the sub-stage apparatus around the object on the stage as a center. Though made last year, Mr. Tolles claims that this expedient was designed by him in 1871, thus anticipating the introduction of similar devices by other inventors during the last few years.

MICROSCOPICAL SOIRÉE.—The State Microscopical Society of Illinois held its annual soirée, by invitation, at the residence of Mr. E. W. Blatchford, at Chicago, on the 8th of March. This *conversazione* was one of the most notable scientific events that have ever occurred in the city. Though given in the name of the

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[1] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.

State Society, the invitations were not limited to its members, the spacious residence being so thronged during the evening that fully 700 people are believed to have participated in the reception. Among the guests were many of the leading citizens of the town. Over fifty microscopes were in use, on tables distributed through a number of rooms, the whole house being given up to the entertainment. The arrangements were under the direction of Messrs. Henry W. Fuller, president, H. F. Atwood, secretary, and B. W. Thomas, treasurer of the society, assisted by Prof. S. H. Peabody, of the Academy of Sciences. A well-selected variety of popular objects was shown by members of the society, including some that are seldom used at public exhibitions on account of their difficulty—Mr. B. W. Thomas showing under two binoculars the circulation in both the tongue and the lungs of the frog. In addition to the instruments owned in the city, a variety of Beck and of Gundlach microscopes were loaned to the society by Messrs. Walmsley and Bausch & Lomb. Variety was contributed to the entertainment by experiments with electricity and the telephone. Both socially and scientifically the reception was most creditable and encouraging to the society.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS —The biological section of the Indianapolis Lyceum of Natural History was organized Feb. 28, 1878, the first officers being Henry Jameson, M.D., president, and W. Webster Butterfield, M.D., secretary. Meetings occur on the first Tuesday evening of each month.

The State Microscopical Society of Illinois, at its annual meeting held April 26th, elected the following officers: President, Henry W. Fuller; vice-presidents, Harvey M. Thompson and H. F. Atwood; secretary, Prof. S. H. Peabody; corresponding secretary, James Colgrove; treasurer, B. W. Thomas; trustees, Prof. E. S. Bastin, Dr. Lester Curtis, E. W. Blatchford, Samuel J. Jones and W. H. Summers.

At the annual meeting of the American Microscopical Society of the city of New York, held Tuesday evening March 26, 1878, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, John B. Rich, M.D.; vice-president, Wm. H. Atkinson, M.D.; secretary, O. G. Mason, Bellevue Hospital; treasurer, T. d'Oremieulx; curator, John Frey.

MICROSCOPICAL CONGRESS.—The invitation to the Microscopical Congress at Indianapolis, next August, has been accepted by a number of societies as well as prominent workers with the microscope, and the meeting promises to be large, and most interesting to those who participate. Particulars in regard to the arrangements will be ready shortly, and can be obtained, in form of a circular, by addressing Dr. W. W. Butterfield, Indianapolis, Indiana.

ERNST GUNDLACH.—This well-known optician, who has been with the Bausch & Lomb Opt. Co., during the past two years, announces his withdrawal from that company and his establishment of a factory in Rochester, in his own name, devoted entirely to microscopical work. He offers stands, with all his former improvements and with some minor advantages now added, and objectives of increased angle and reduced price. His higher powers will be on the four-system plan, and claim the excessive aperture of 150 degrees in water.

EXCHANGES.—Isthmia nervosa, rich specimens *in situ* on algæ, in exchange for any good mounted objects. M. A. Booth, Longmeadow, Mass.

Leaves with very beautiful stellate hairs and also a variety of marine objects, from the Bahamas, in exchange for mounted or unmounted objects. C. C. Merriman, Rochester, N. Y.

WANTED—Some well posted diatomist to give the names of diatoms, arranged, on a few slides, in exchange for the slides. C. M. Vorce, Cleveland, Ohio.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Science in America has met with an irreparable loss in the death of the honored and revered Prof. Joseph Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution since 1846, and president of the National Academy of Sciences. He was born in Albany, N. Y., December 17, 1797, and died May 13, working at his post, engaged, until a few days before his death, in arduous and responsible duties. We have but space, at this time, to record briefly the decease of this eminent investigator and able administrator.

— In a recent letter from Edward Desor, of Neuchatel, Switzerland, he states "that he has been diverted from his ordinary pursuits by that mischievous beast which has invaded us from North America, viz: the *Phylloxera*. We have some hope that we shall succeed in getting rid of him by means of a new treatment of the infested viper, viz: by *liquid* sulphurous acid, which has been applied recently with success at Geneva. Besides that I am prosecuting my investigations on some geological and pre-historical problems, especially the cups and archaic signs on the erratic boulders."—*F. V. H.*

— The Annual Report of the Vienna Imperial Geological Institute shows that the usual activity pervades this model institution. Additions to the special map of the empire have been carried on in the Central Alps, and from the Alps to the Venetian plain, as well as in Eastern Galicia, North-eastern Hungary and the Dneister region, while still other local surveys have been carried on in Austria. Collaberation with other geologists in Bohemia and Hungary has gone on, while the museum and library have been re-arranged in part, and heavy accessions made. (From a letter to Prof. F. V. Hayden by Count Marschall.)